

Message Text

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53/21

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-14 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 INRE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /148 W
----- 069993

O R 271033Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 546

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

CDR 13TH AF, CLARK AB

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR JCRC NKP

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6659

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (DATE PARA ONE LINE THREE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJ: POW/MIA LAOS - EMMET KAY

REF: A) VIENTIANE 6616 (NOTAL)

B) VIENTIANE 6550 (NOTAL)

C) STATE 187571 (NOTAL)

1. COLONEL PHAO BOUNNAPHOL, PATHET LAO SPOKESMAN, JOINT
CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA),
IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF ON AUGUST 27, CONFIRMED KAY
TO BE RELEASED. PHAO WAS, HOWEVER, UNABLE TO STATE IN
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WHICH "TRANCHE" KAY WOULD BE RELEASED. IN SEPARATE

REPORT TO PRESS OFFICER AND COUNSELOR FOR INFORMATION, MAURICE SENESCHAL (REPRESENTATIVE, AGENCE FRANCE PRESS - AFP) STATED THAT PHAO HAD TOLD HIM, UNEQUIVOCALLY, ON AUGUST 27 THAT KAY WOULD BE RELEASED IN THE PRISONER EXCHANGE. PHAO, WHO WAS AWARE THAT TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH SENESCHAL WAS OFFICIAL FOR AFP, SAID HE HAD MET MONDAY, AUGUST 26, WITH HIS "HOMOLOGUE" ON THE JCCIA. PHAO SAID THE ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN WOULD BE APPROVED BY JCCIA AT NEXT MEETING, PROBABLY THURSDAY. PLAN IS: 20 DAYS AFTER APPROVAL, FIRST GROUP OF PRISONERS WILL BE EXCHANGED, TO BE FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL MORE EXCHANGES. EMMET KAY IS SPECIFICALLY ON THE LIST, THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHICH GROUP. FOREIGN TROOPS ARE ALSO ON THE LIST. POINTS AND DATES OF EXCHANGE HAVE NOT YET BEEN FIXED. AS POINTED OUT IN REFTELS A AND B, DETAILS AS TO TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF RELEASES ARE STILL BEING WORKED OUT BETWEEN PATHET LAO AND VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBERS OF JCCIA. IN INTERIM, EMBOFF WILL MEET ASAP WITH COLONEL LOUN SISOUNOL, VIENTIANE SIDE REPRESENTATIVE TO JCCIA, TO DETERMINE PRECISE STATUS JCCIA PLANNING ON TIME OF RELEASE, AS WELL AS LOCATION.

2. DAO REPRESENTATIVES IN DISCUSSION WITH VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBER JCCIA, ON AUGUST 26, WAS TOLD THAT MILITARY REGIONS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO SUBMIT PATHET LAO AND NVA LISTS DURING PERIOD 5-10 SEPTEMBER.

3. CONSIDERING CURRENT STATE OF LAO PREPAREDNESS, SEPTEMBER 12 DATE FOR RELEASE OF KAY, REPORTED REFTEL C, SEEMS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING HARD TO GET THIS BUSINESS BUTTONED DOWN AND THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS ALL WE HAVE. THE STATEMENTS SEEM AUTHORITATIVE BUT WE ARE CONTINUING TO TREAT THIS MATTER WITH SOME RESERVE. WE WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONFIRM THE PATHET LAO STATEMENT AND EXACT DATE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELEASE AND WILL KEEP ADDRESSEES INFORMED.
WHITEHOUSE

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